

# WHY WORLD WAR I?

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# THE INTERNET AND IEDS

- ✖ Bryant Gumbel: :” What is the Internet?”
- ✖ What is “.com”?
- ✖ 1994

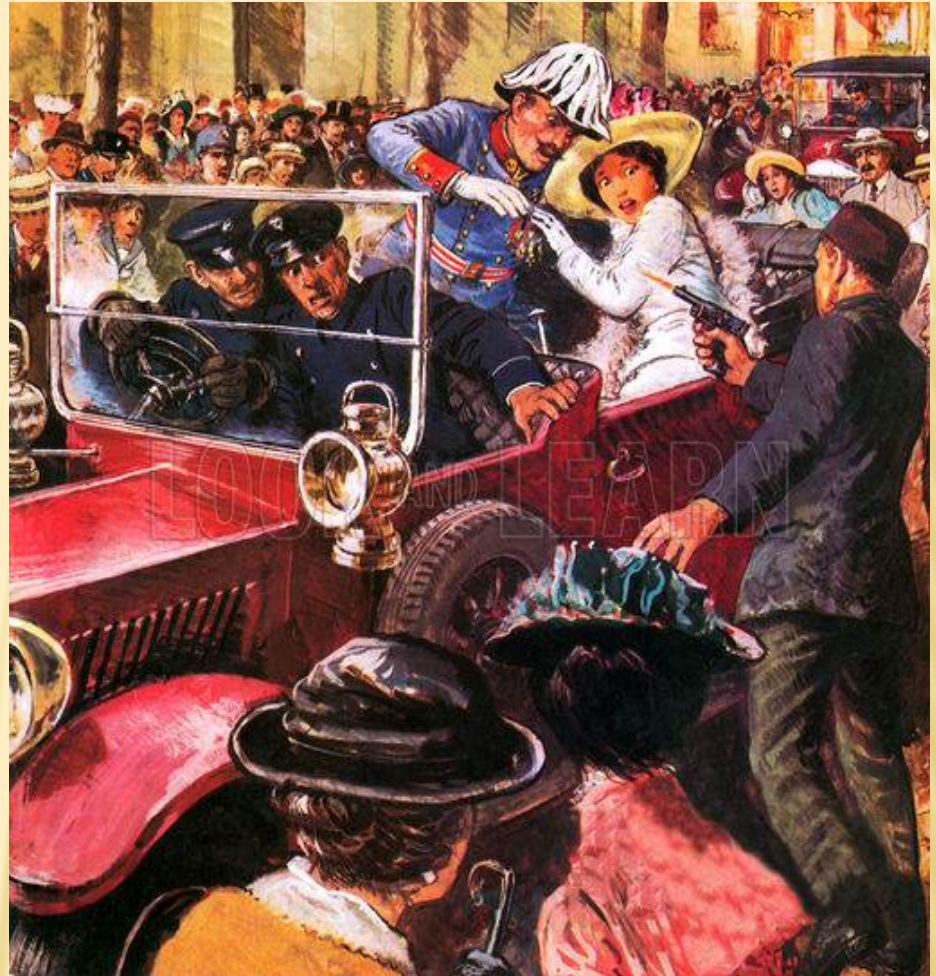




Is World War I  
inevitable?

Can only  
understand 1914 by  
NOT looking at it  
from 1915-18.

Suspend all your  
previous  
conclusions.



**THE ASSASSINATION OF FRANZ FERDINAND, JUNE  
1914**



Understand:

1. The political situation of 1911-1914.

3. The military and technological realities of 1914.

4. The strategic plans of 1914.

## GOALS FOR SESSION



Geh' o Soldat! und deine Pflicht erfülle!  
Christus, der gute Hirt — bewachet seine Herden —  
O Herr! Zukomme uns Dein Reich und gescheh' Dein Wille  
Wie in dem Himmel, also auch auf Erden.



# THE CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

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# STACKING THE DECK?

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- ✗ Franco-Prussian War, 1871
- ✗ Russo-Japanese War, 1905
- ✗ First Moroccan Crisis, 1905-06
- ✗ German Naval Build-up
- ✗ Second Moroccan Crisis, 1911
- ✗ Russian “Great Military Programme,” 1912
- ✗ Balkan Wars, 1912-1913



# EUROPEAN POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY



# ENTENTE VS CENTRAL POWERS

## ✕ Original

- + France\*
- + Russia
- + Great Britain\*
- + Serbia
- + Belgium\*

## ✕ Later

- + Italy\*
- + Romania
- + Japan\*
- + US\*

## ✕ Original

- + Germany\*
- + Austria-Hungary\*  
(Habsburg Monarchy)

## ✕ Later

- + Ottoman Empire (1914)
- + Bulgaria



# ETHNIC REALITIES?



# GERMAN PARLIAMENT(REICHSTAG)

- ✗ The SPD, or the German Socialist Party, the first national Party to have open Marxist influence, votes YES! for war in 1914,





# NATIONALISM



- ✗ First real “nationalist” conflict.
- ✗ The romantic, often invented notion of “nation”
- ✗ The triumph of “ethnic nationalism over “civic” far more virulent.

**BORN 1848, 66 IN 1914**



**BORN 1852, 62 IN 1914**

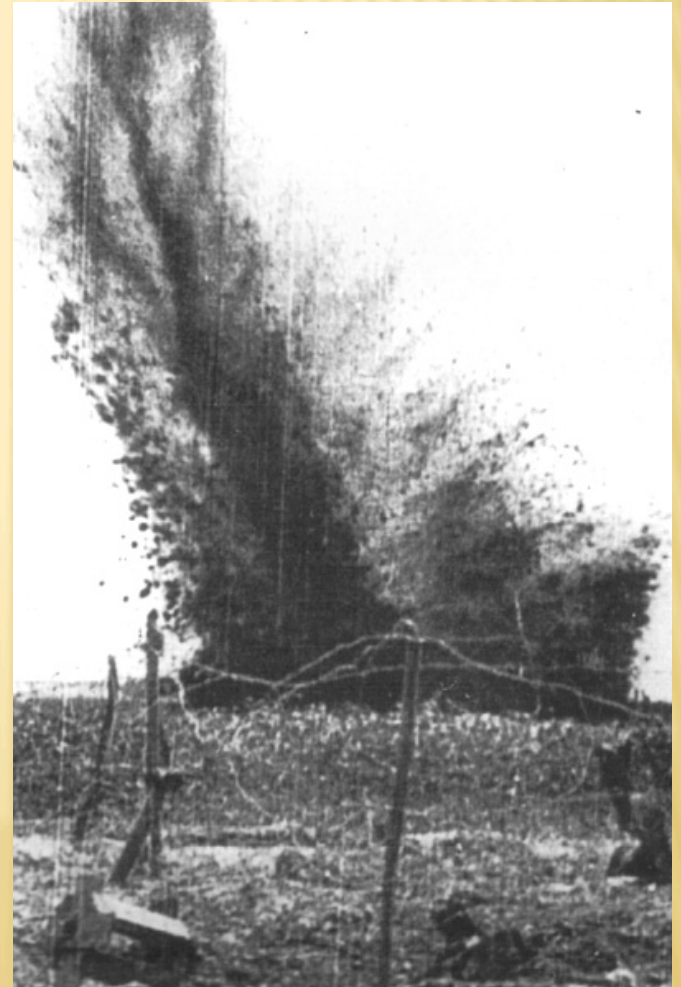
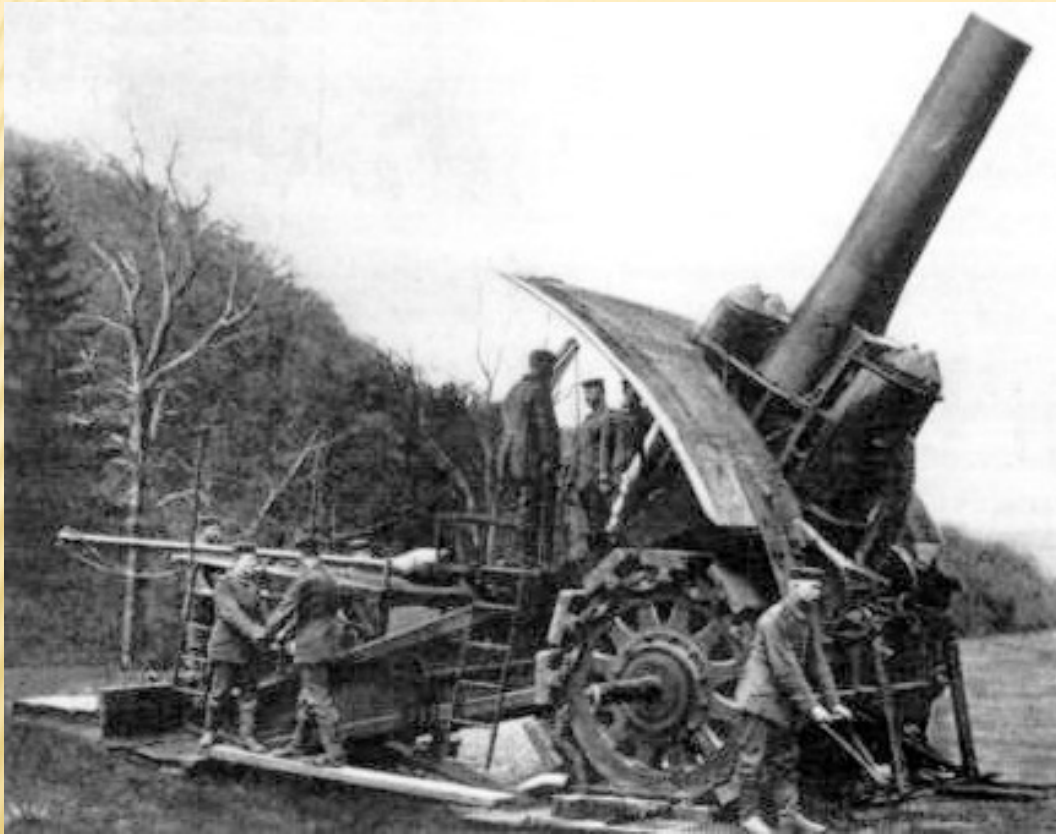


**VON MOLTKE AND JOFFRE**



## Shrapnel shell (Now HE and AP)

# A WAR OF HEAVY ARTILLERY...





# A WAR OF TRAINS...



resources	Central Powers	Allied Powers
population (in millions)	115.2	265.5
steel production (in millions of metric tons)	17.0	15.3
army divisions available for mobilization in August 1914	146	212
modern battleships	20	39



# RAILROADS



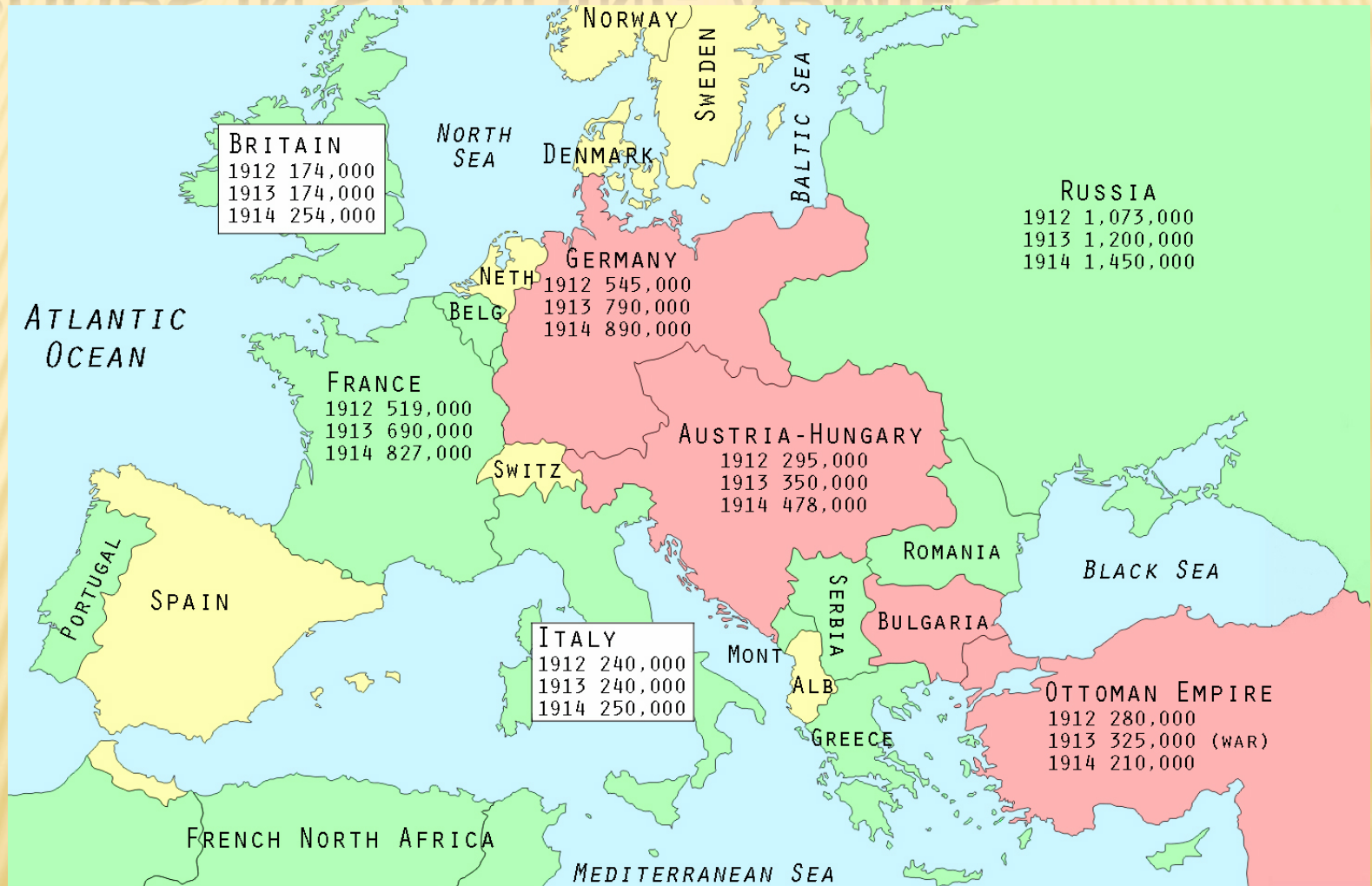
EUROPEAN RAIL NETWORK, MAJOR LINES, 1914

# WAR PLANS





# TROOPS IN STANDING ARMIES



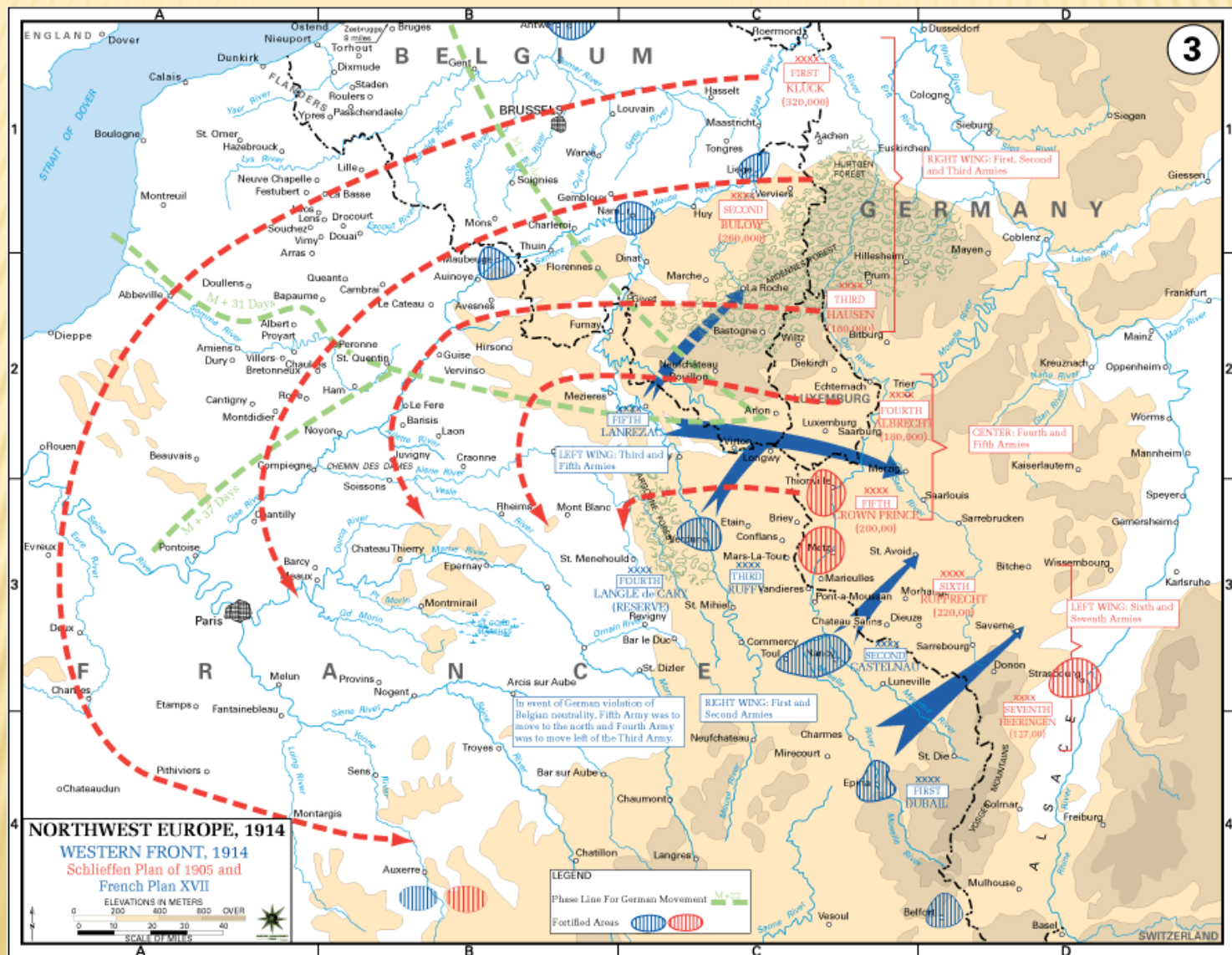
STANDING ARMIES OF MAJOR WWI COMBATANTS, 1912-1914

# PLANNING

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РЕЗУЛЬТАТЫ РАБОТЫ



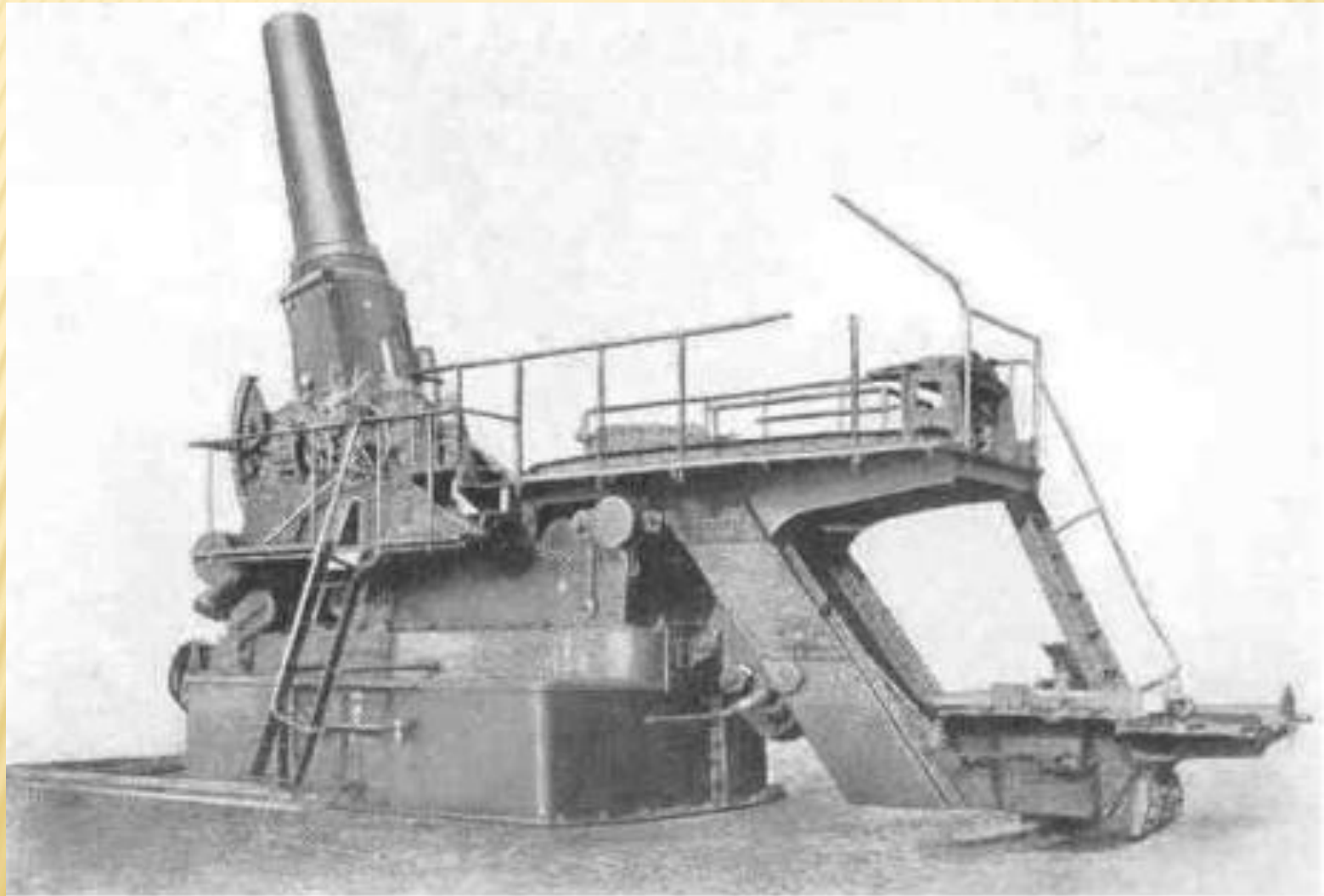
**NORTHWEST EUROPE, 1914**  
WESTERN FRONT, 1914  
Schlieffen Plan of 1905 and  
French Plan XVII

# RAIL DEPLOYMENT OF FORCES WEST, FIRST...

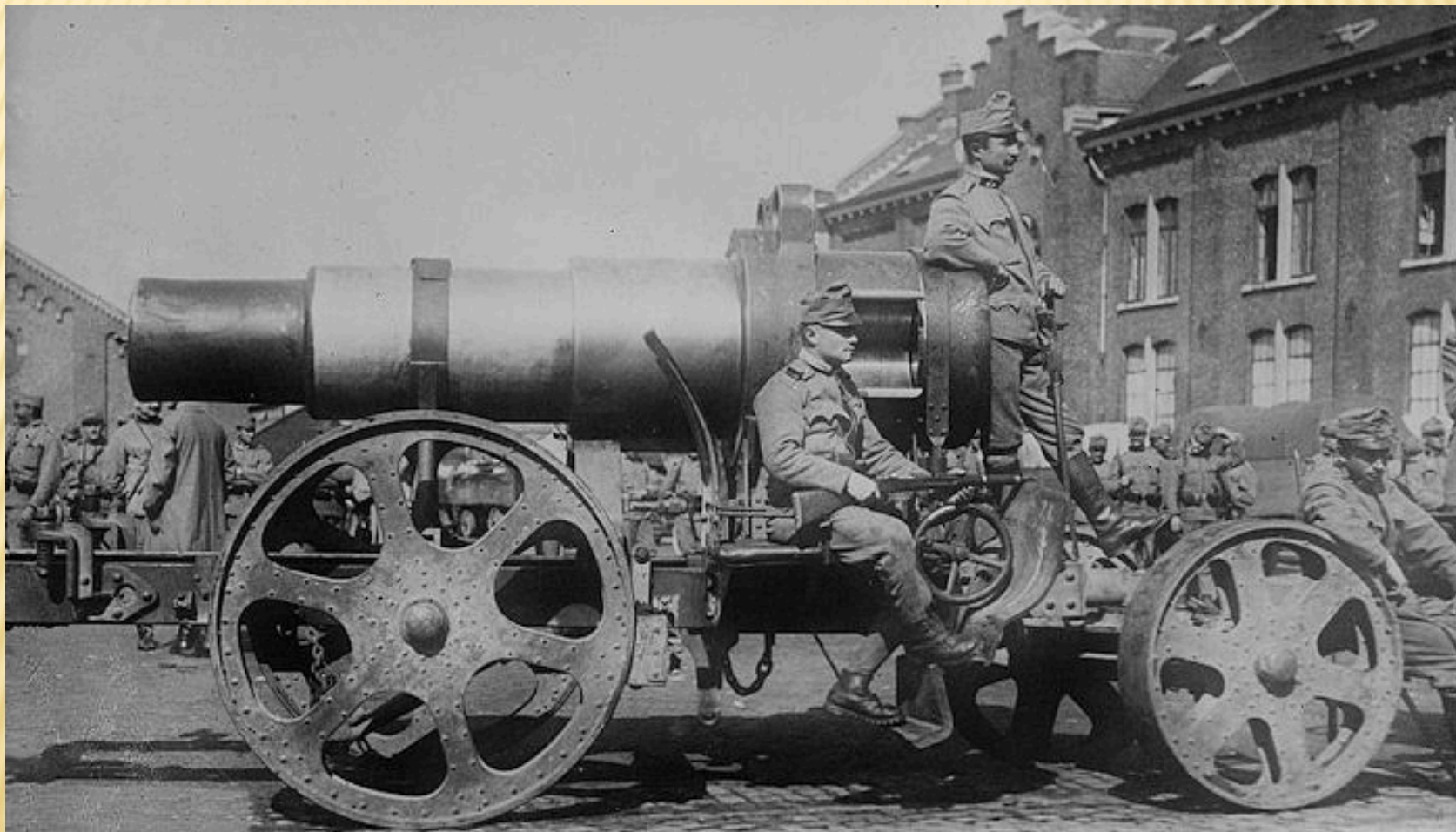




# DEPENDS ON GUNS AND...



# GUNS TO BREAK FORTRESSES





# GERMAN FIELD GUNS



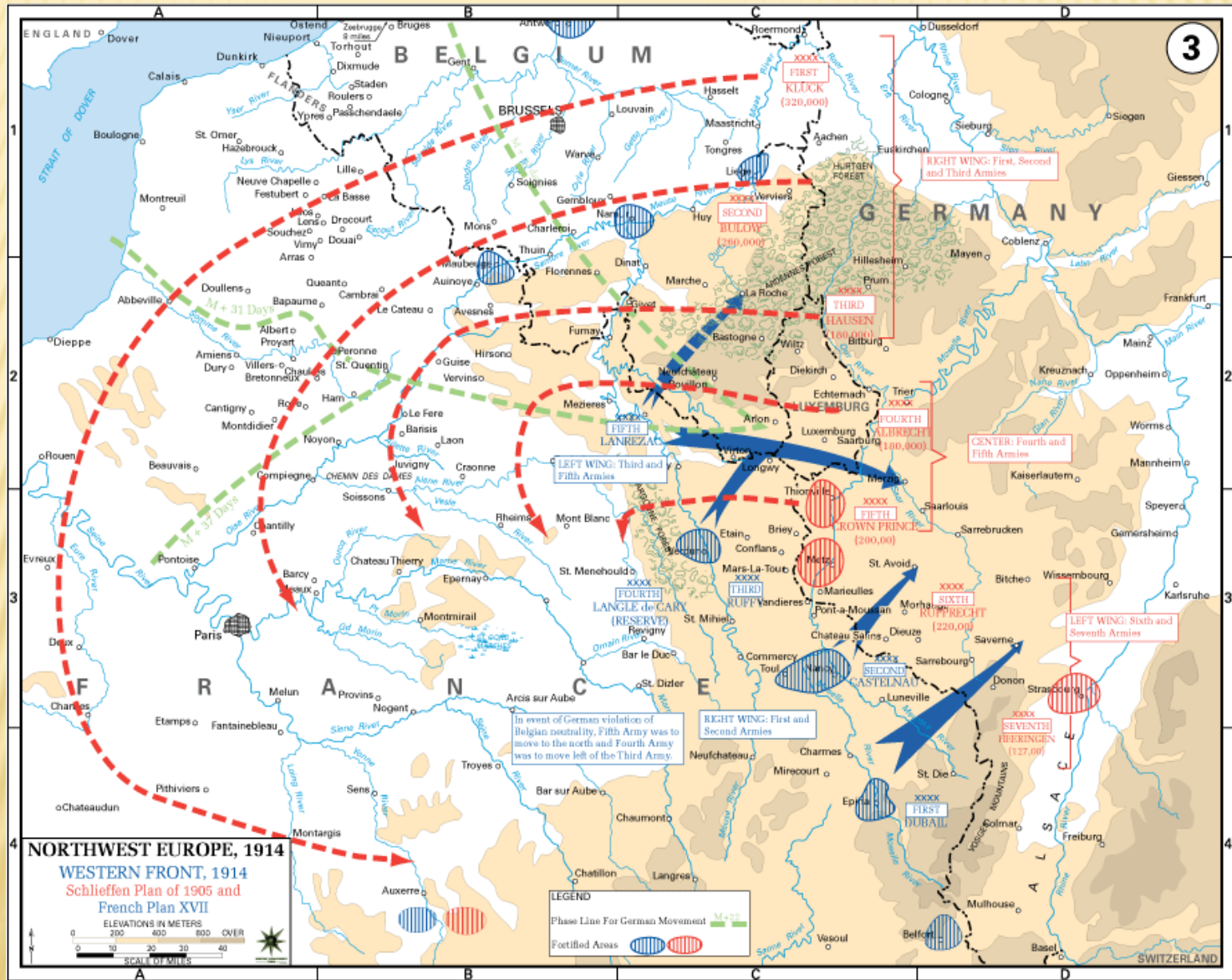


# MARCHING...





# FRENCH PLAN, PLAN XVII



# ARTILLERY...





# ELAN...

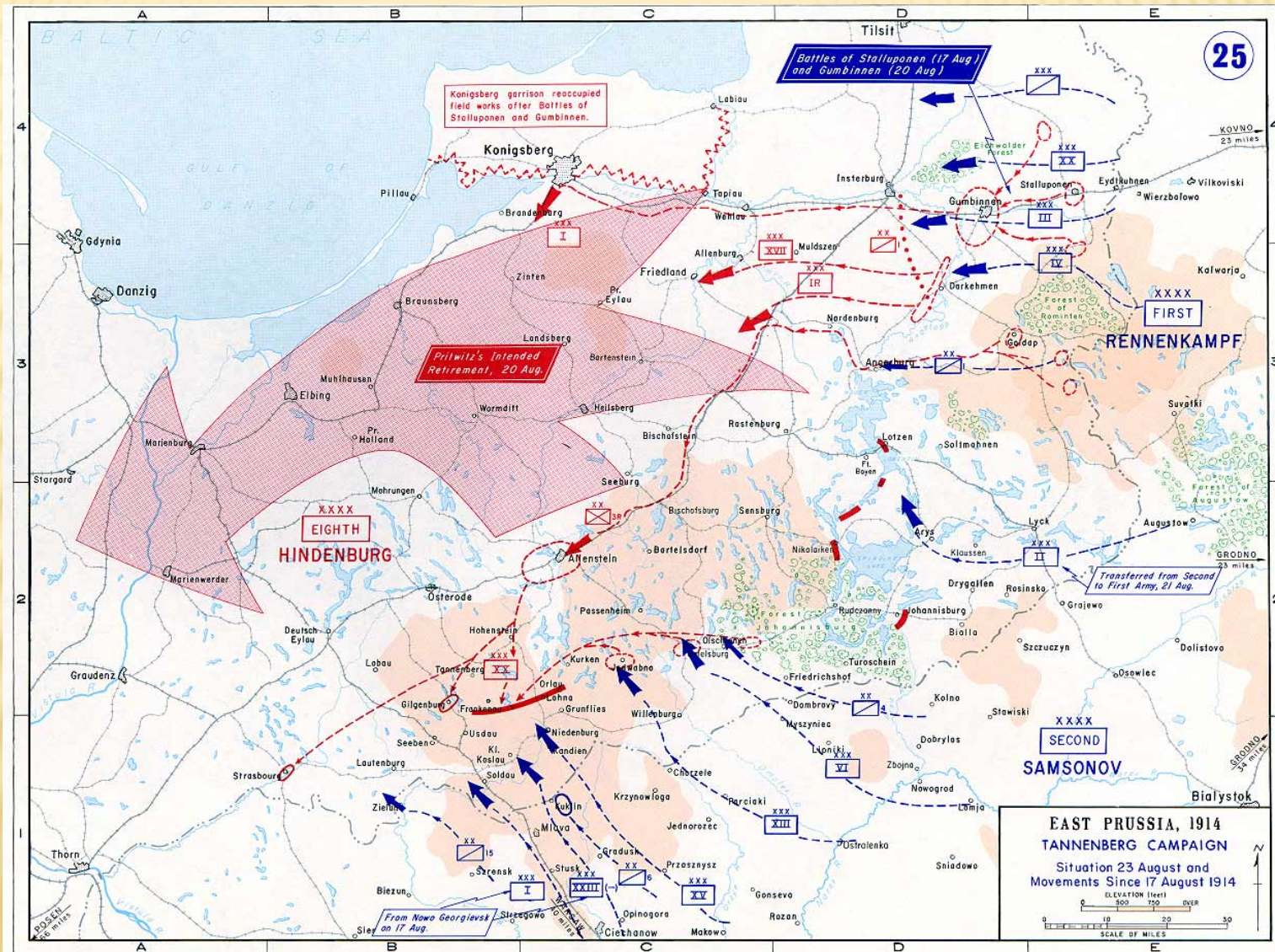


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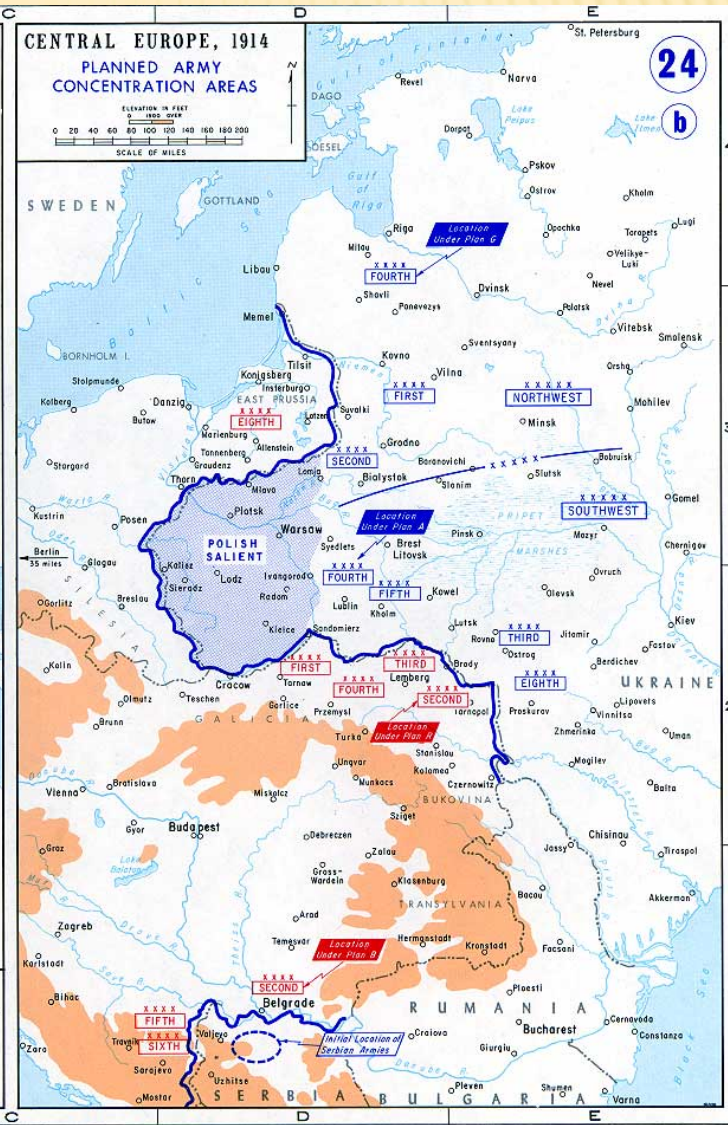




# RUSSIAN PLAN...









# INFANTRY...



# MODEST ARTILLERY



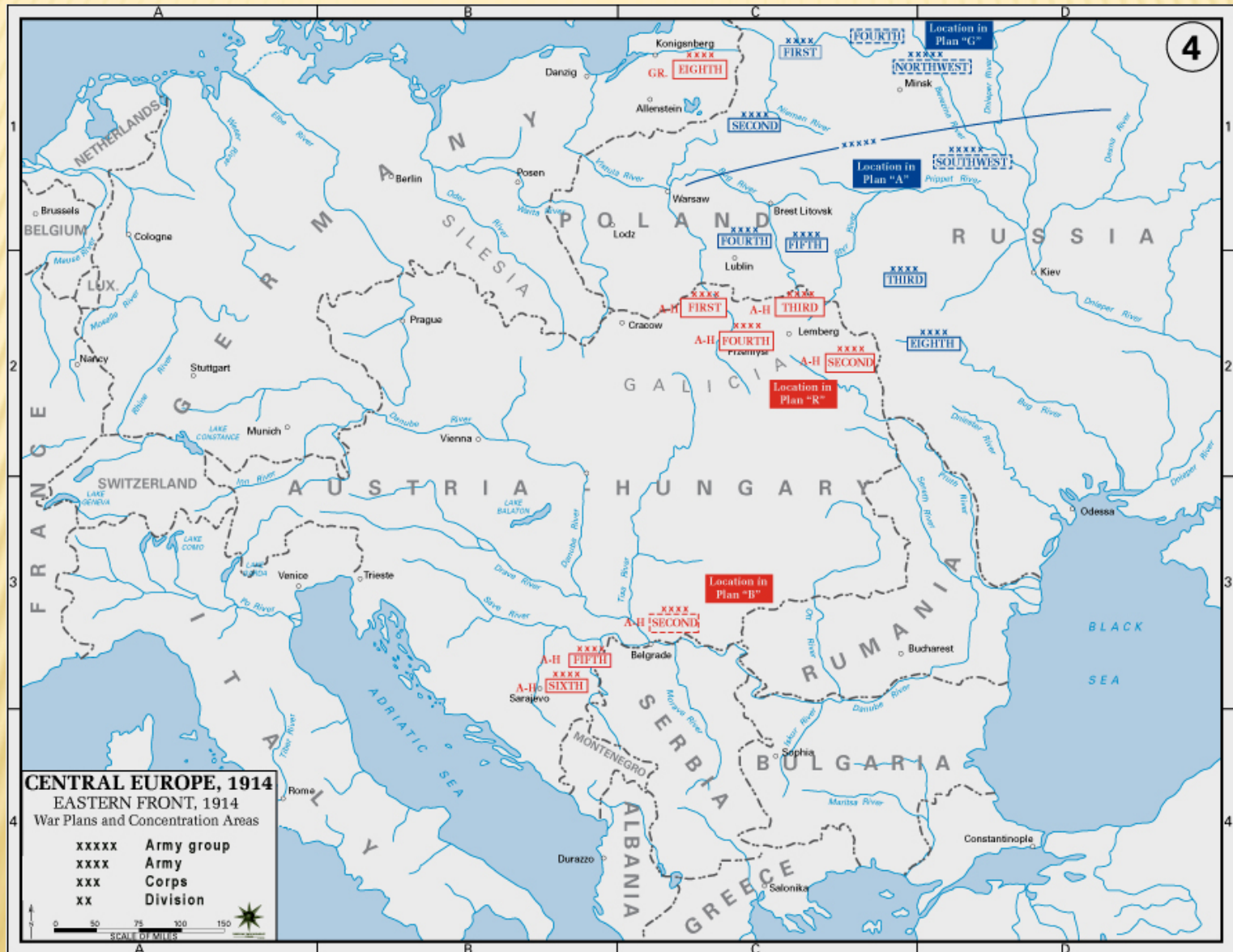


# MORE RUSSIANS...



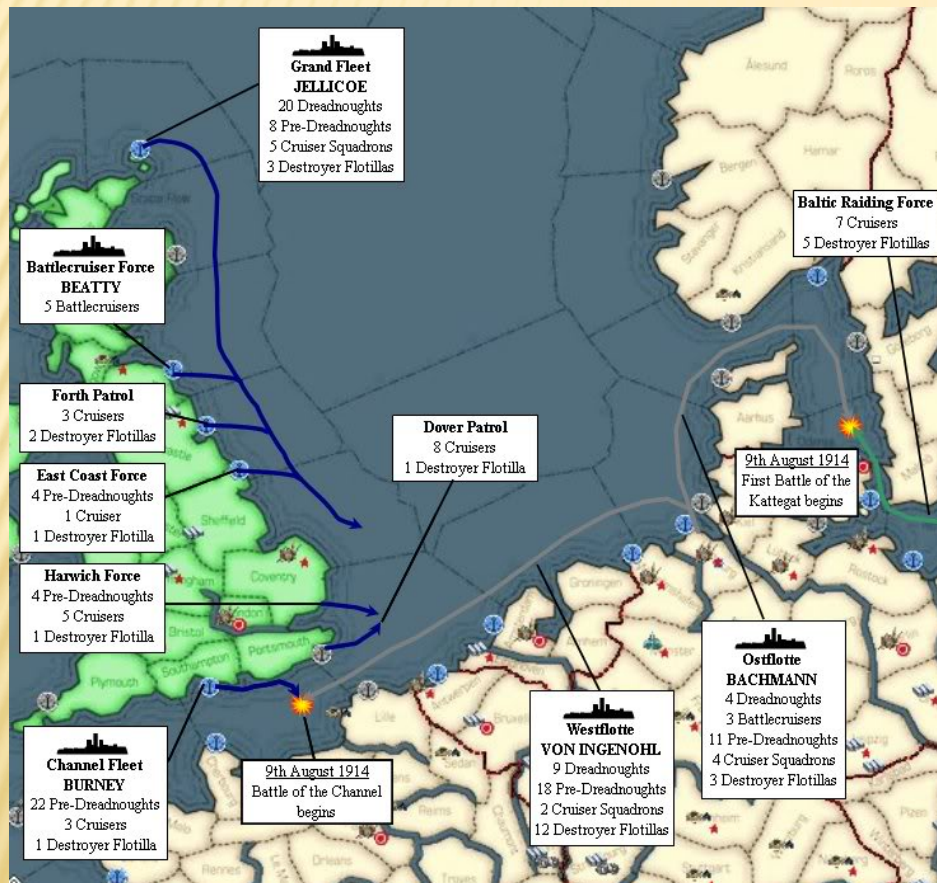


(AND AUSTRALIA-HONGKONG)



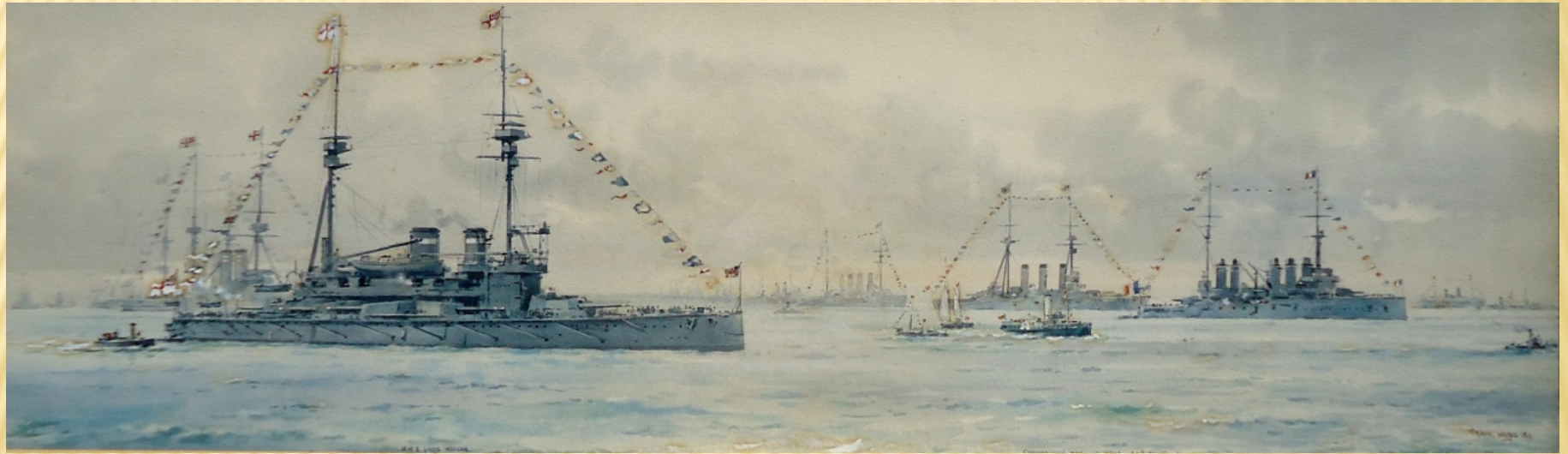


# A BRITISH PLAN?



- ✗ Naval Race great concern for British security
- ✗ Home Fleet #1 force.
- ✗ Army relatively tiny
- ✗ Support French, blockade Germans.

# BRITISH FLEET... (1911)

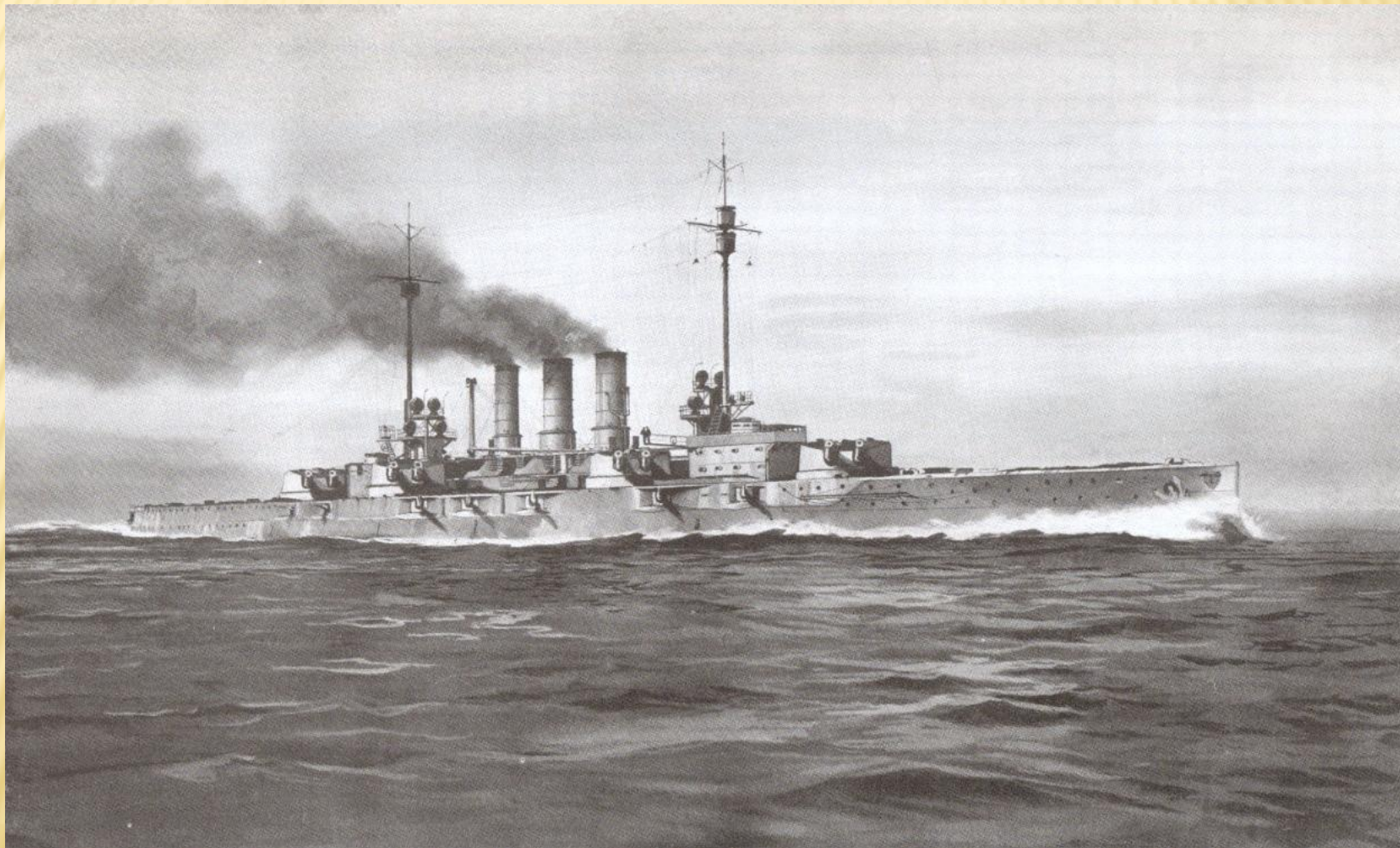




# BLOCKADE, BUT FEAR OF...



# SMS HELGOLAND

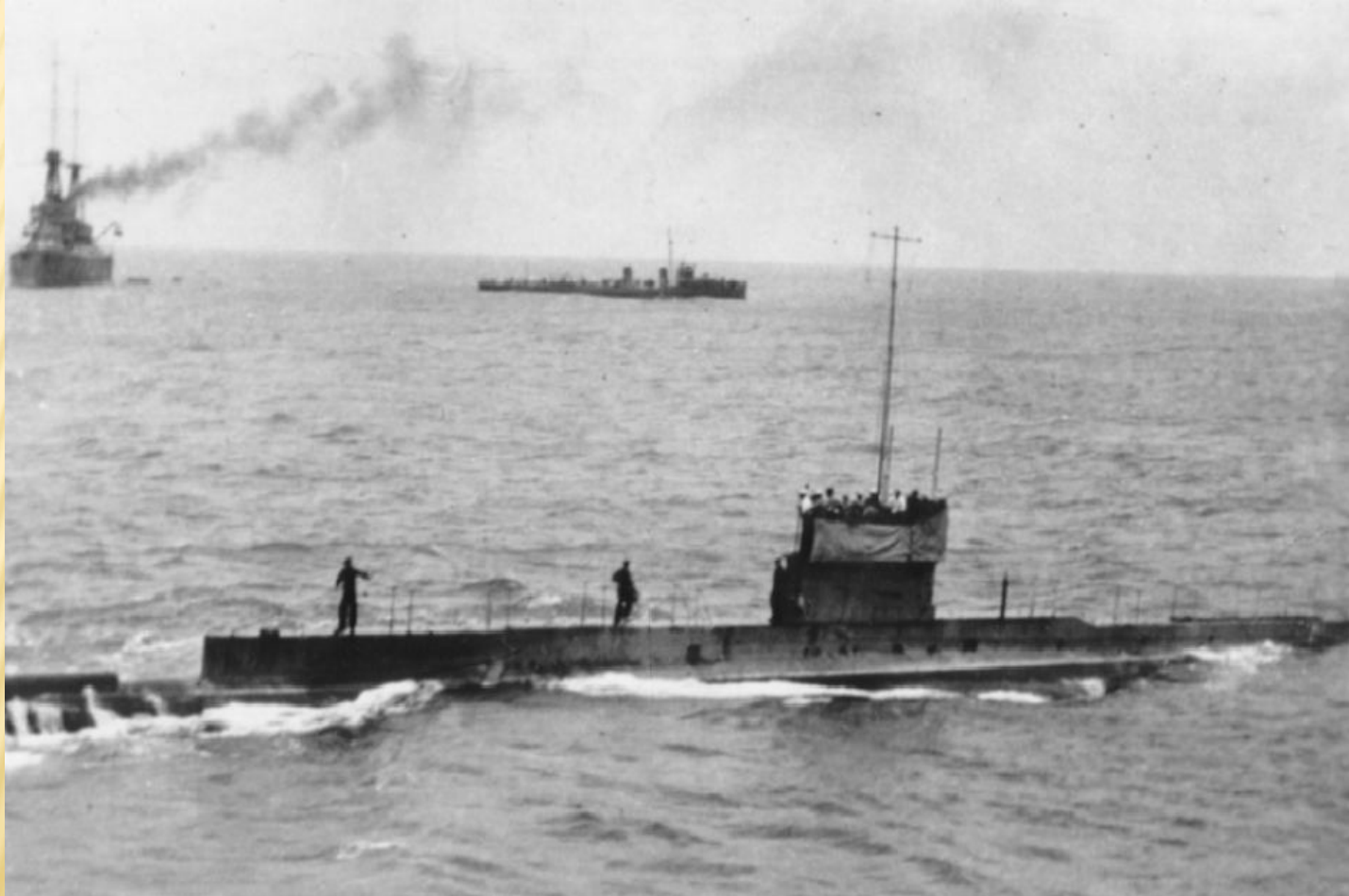




# AND TO ASSIST THE FRENCH



# AE-1, STILL FIGURING THEM OUT...

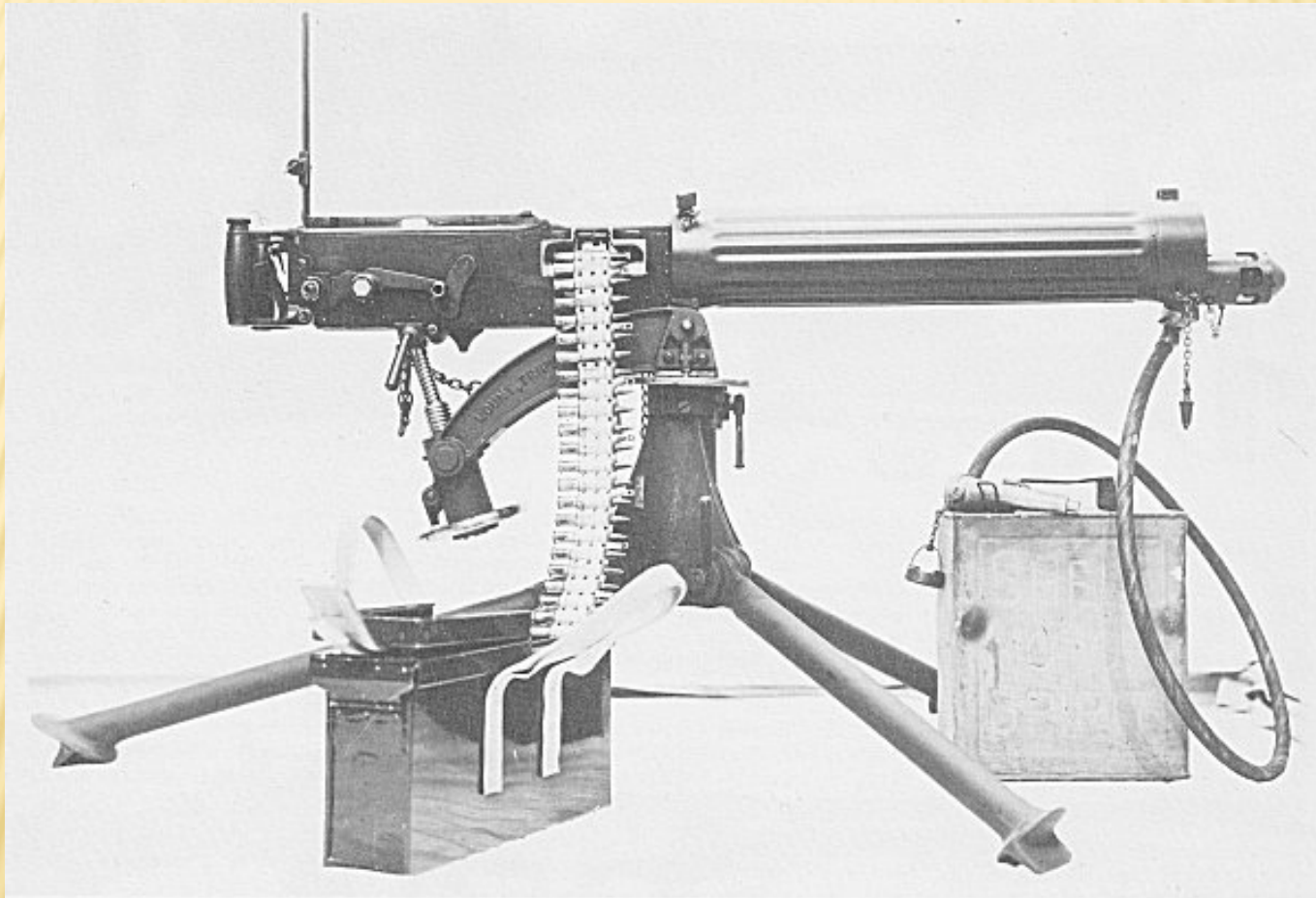




# AIRCRAFT?



# VICKERS, RANGE 800YDS



The Gun, Machine, Vickers .303in Mark 1 on the Mount, Tripod, Mark 4B.



# GERMAN USE, OFFENSIVE OR DEFENSE?



# MOBILITY WHEN THE TRACKS END...



*L'Étendard et sa Garde*



# KURDISH LIGHT CAVALRY, 1914



# CONCLUSIONS

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And Bibliography

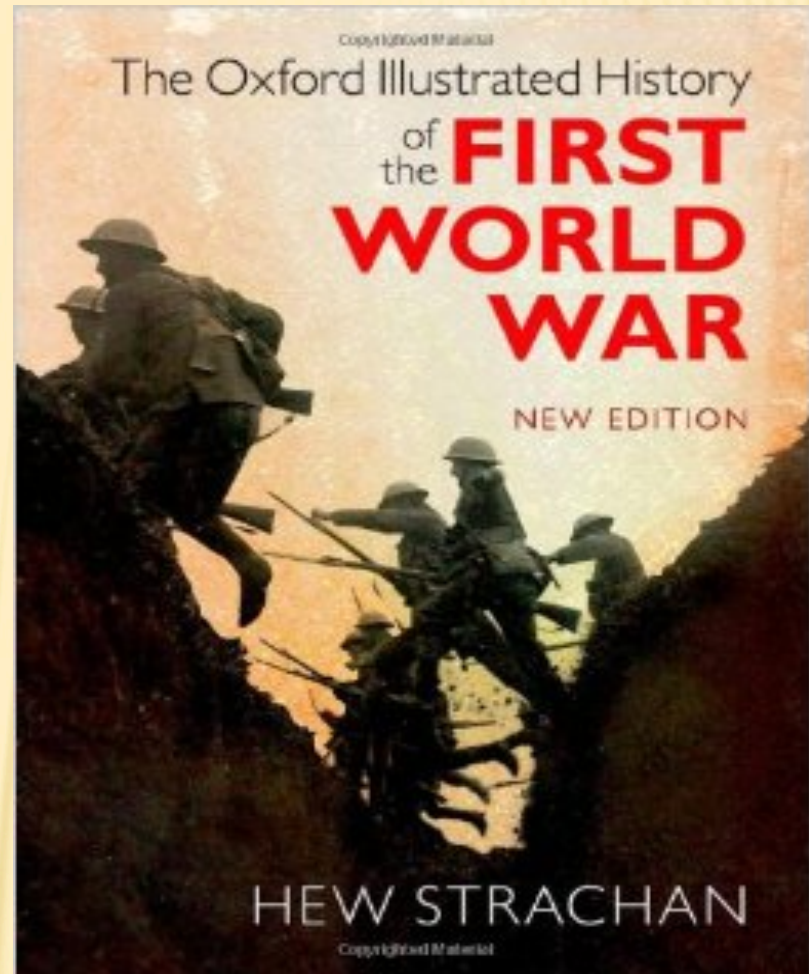


# BEING EMPATHETIC

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- ✗ Remembering that 1914 is NOT 1916.
- ✗ Military and Political Leaders products of their time.
- ✗ Teaching forward through time means not assuming outcomes.
- ✗ New forces, political and technological.
- ✗ Re-think World War I as more groping in the dark for solutions.

Hew Strachan,  
editor, *The Oxford  
Illustrated History  
of the First World  
War*. (Oxford  
University Press,  
New York, 1998).

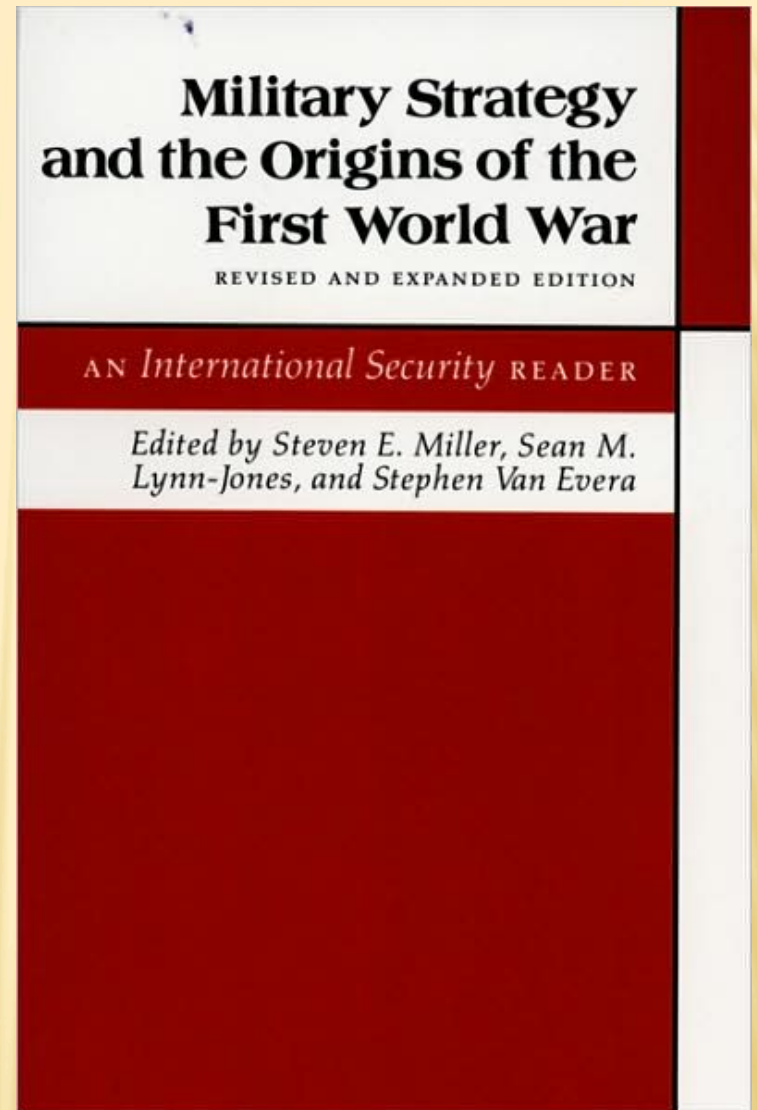


**GREAT COLLECTION OF ESSAYS**



Series of essays explaining the reasons for the strategies and tactics of the major combatants. First essay on economic positions.

## GREAT OVERVIEW ESSAYS



# BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- ✘ Holder H. Herwig, *The First World War: Germany and Austria-Hungary, 1914-1918*. (St. Martin's Press, New York, 1997).
- ✘ Donald Kagan, *On the Origins of War*. (Doubleday Press, New York, 1995).